

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EINV, PINT, UK
SUBJECT: DE LOREAN MOTOR COMPANY COMES TO NORTHERN IRELAND

REF: (A) LONDON 12468, (B) DUBLIN 2024

1. NORTHERN IRELAND IS AGOG WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT IN BELFAST AUGUST 3, OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW AUTO-ASSEMBLY PLANT ESTIMATED TO COST 65 MILLION POUNDS AND EVENTUALLY PROVIDE 2000 TO 3000 NEW JOBS (REF A). THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE BY SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND ROY MASON AND MR. JOHN DE LOREAN, HEAD OF THE DE LOREAN MOTOR COMPANY OF DETROIT.

2. THIS NEW U.S. ENTERPRISE IS SEEN LOCALLY AS AN IMPORTANT COUP FOR NORTHERN IRELAND. MR. JOHN DE LOREAN, A FORMER VICE PRESIDENT OF GM, HAD LOOKED AT SEVERAL OTHER LOCATIONS, AND COMPLIMENTED THE NI EXPERTS EXTRAVAGANTLY ON THE QUICK AND COMPETENT PREPARATION OF THEIR PROJECT. HE WILL BRING TO NI A NEW HIGH EMPLOYMENT INDUSTRY THAT DRAWS ON LOCAL SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE. IT WILL BE LOCATED IN THE PREDOMINANTLY CATHOLIC AREA OF WEST BELFAST (TWINBROOK), WHERE AS MR. MASON NOTED, A THIRD OF THE ADULT MALES AND HALF THE YOUTHS
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ARE UNEMPLOYED AND THE COMING OF THE LARGEST U.S. PLANT THUS FAR MAY ENCOURAGE EVEN MORE FOREIGN INVESTMENT FOR NI.

3. THERE HAVE BEEN CRITICISM OF HIGH RISK (PARA 8 REF B)
-- A NEW SPORTS CAR EMPLOYING SOME NEW TECHNOLOGY, AND THE COST FOR NI -- BUT DE LOREAN SEEMS CONFIDENT. A LEADING LOYALIST AND A LEADING UNIONIST HAVE CRITICIZED THE WEST

BELFAST LOCATION. SOME IN NI STILL SEE A GAIN FOR ONE PART OF THE COMMUNITY AS A LOSS TO THE OTHER.

4. THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE NEW FACTORY WOULD BE SITED IN A PREDOMINANTLY CATHOLIC AREA (PROTESTANTS ALSO ARE NEARBY, HOWEVER, AND HAVE EASY ACCESS TO THE SITE) COINCIDED WITH THE PUBLICATION IN THE PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN'S WEEKLY PAPER, "REPUBLICAN NEWS", OF A STATEMENT FROM THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF IRISH AMERICANS ALLEGING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST CATHOLICS, BELFAST 120 AND 125 REPORTED ACCUSATIONS TO THIS EFFECT BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL AND THE ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS, AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY DEPUTY LEADER JOHN HUME'S SHARP CRITICISM OF SUCH STATEMENTS). THE NATIONAL COUNCIL STATEMENT ATTACKED HUME AND SAID THAT "U.S. FIRMS LOCATING IN NI ARE CHANNELLED INTO UNIONIST AREAS, THUS CREATING JOBS FOR BRITAIN' S UNIONIST SUPPORTERS ONLY. CATHOLICS GET NOTHING."STOUT

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